

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 280957Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7354

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO UR

SUBJ: KOSYGIN'S TWO DAYS IN BELGRADE

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN DIVIDED HIS TIME IN BELGRADE AMONG CEREMONIAL RECEPTIONS, OFFICIAL TALKS AND SIGHTSEEING. HIS TOAST AT LUNCHEON FIRST DAY HERE CONTAINED PHRASES WHICH MAY HAVE IRRITATED YUGOSLAVS. PRESS COVERAGE INDICATES TALKS ARE CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. DETAILS OF TRAVELS IN YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING INTERESTING MACEDONIA VISIT FOLLOW SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY

2. SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN DEPARTED BELGRADE SEPTEMBER 26 FOR HIS TOUR OF YUGOSLAVIA AND TALKS LATER IN WEEK WITH PRESIDENT TITO AT BRIONI. KOSYGIN SEPENT ONLY PART OF MONDAY AFTERNOODN AND TUESDAY MORNING IN OFFICIAL TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV TEAM HEADED BY HIS HOST. PREMIER DZEMAL BIJEDIC.

3. TOASTS AT LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 24 CONTAINED MUCH EXPECTED RHETORIC AND POSITIVE EVALUATION OF SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. KOSYGIN'S TOAST IN ADDITION CONTAINED SEVERAL PHRASES WHICH

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COULD HAVE BEEN IRRITATING FOR HIS HOSTS, E.G., AT ONE POINT

HE TALKED OF "VERY IDENTITY OF SOCIAL ORDERS IN BOTH COUNTRIES", WHICH IS FORMULATION RUNNING COUNTER TO YUGOSLAV CONCEPTS OF SEPARATE ROADS TO SOCIALISM, SELF-MANAGEMENT SOCIALISM AND SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY. LATER IN THE TOAST KOSYGIN NOTED, "WE ARE DEEPLY SATISFIED BECAUSE YUGOSLAVIA, JUST AS SOVIET UNION, ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO MONOLITHIC CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE WORLD.." KOSYGIN REFERRED TO BREZHNEV'S TALKS WITH TITO IN 1971 AND 1972 AND AT ANOTHER POINT QUOTED BREZHNEV AS SAYING THAT AS IN CASE OF A MAN, "IT IS DIFFICULT FOR A COUNTRY WHEN IT HAS NO ALLIES, NO PEOPLE WHO THINK THE SAME WAY, NO STATES WHICH ARE FRIENDS".

4. IN HIS OPENING TOAST BIJEDIC HAD REPEATED STANDARD YUGOSLAV PHRASEOLOGY ABOUT "PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL RESPECT, CONSISTENT RECOGNITION OF SPECIFIC TRAITS OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS" -- PRINCIPLES HE SAID WERE CORE OF BELGRADE DECLARATION OF 1955 AND JOINT STATEMENT OF 1971 AND 1972. BIJEDIC ALMOST APPEARED TO BE LECTURING SOVIET GUEST ON SELF-MANAGEMENT AS "BASIS FOR YUGOSLAV SOCIAL-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM".

5. ACCORDING PRESS, KOSYGIN POSITIVELY ASSESSED YUGOSLAVIA'S AND TITO'S NONALIGNED POLICIES DURING SEPTEMBER 25 TALKS. MOST ATTENTION IN TALKS IS BEING DEVOTED, AS EXPECTED, TO ECONOMIC MATTERS.

6. COMMENT: ON THE SURFACE, KOSYGIN VISIT HAS GOTTEN OFF TO GOOD START. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, WHETHER SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND SOON TO THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF SLOW UTILIZATION OF SOVIET CREDITS BY YUGOSLAV AUTONOMOUS ENTERPRISES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELGRA04344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973094/aaaaacxt.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOSYGIN'S TWO DAYS IN BELGRADE
TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR, (KOSYGIN, ALEKSEY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005